

City of Houston

Design Manual

Chapter 12

STREET CUT REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 12**STREET CUT REQUIREMENTS****1.01 CHAPTER INCLUDES**

- A. Criteria for street pavement cuts, excavation, backfill, and pavement restoration in Public Ways.
- B. This chapter applies to excavation under paved surfaces in Public Ways which have been improved for street, sidewalk, surface drainage, or related public transportation infrastructure.

1.02 REFERENCES

- A. Refer to the list of references in Chapter 1, General Requirements.
- B. City of Houston Procedural Guidelines for Planning and Permitting of Excavations in Public Ways, latest revision.

1.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. Excavation - An activity that disturbs, alters, or penetrates any portion of the public way that has been improved for street, driveway, sidewalk, surface drainage, or related public transportation infrastructure purposes. The term includes but is not limited to cutting, tunneling, jacking and boring, backfilling, restoring, and repairing the public way. The term does not include a transportation improvement; however, it does include excavations that are undertaken for the improvement or maintenance of publicly owned utility systems, such as water and wastewater lines and facilities.
- B. Backfill - Excavation fill material that meets city specified quality requirements or the placement thereof.
- C. Facility - Any structure, device, or other thing whatsoever that may be installed or maintained in, on, within, under, over or above a public way by an excavation.
- D. Five-Year CIP - Street improvement projects included in a Capital Improvement Program by the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO, TxDOT, or other organization for construction.
- E. Hole - Excavation in the Public Way with the excavation having a length less than the width of the pavement.
- F. Patch - Method of pavement replacement that is temporary in nature. A patch consists of: (1) the compaction of the subbase and aggregate base, and (2) the replacement, in kind, of the existing pavement for a minimum of two feet beyond the edges of the excavation in all directions. A patch is full restoration only when the pavement is included in the City of Houston's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

- G. Public Way - Any public street right-of-way located in the city, including the entire area between the boundary lines of every way (including but not limited to roads, streets, alleys, highways, boulevards, bridges, tunnels, or similar thoroughfares), whether acquired by purchase, grant, or dedication and acceptance by the city or by the public that has been opened to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.
- H. Restoration - The process by which an excavated public way and surrounding area, including pavement and foundation, is returned to the same condition that existed before excavation.
- I. Trench - An excavation in the pavement with the excavation having a length equal to or greater than the width of the pavement.
- J. Two-year CIP - Street improvement projects included in a Capital Improvement Program by the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO, TxDOT, or other organization for construction.

1.04 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- A. Design project so that restoration returns public way to the same condition that existed prior excavation. Base minimum limits and methods required for restoration on the following Standard Details:

02902.01 SHEETS 1 AND 2 OF 2 - PAVEMENT REPAIR DETAILS

02951.01 SHEET 01 OF 02 - STREET CUT PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT:
0-5 YEAR PAVEMENT

02951.01 SHEET 02 OF 02 - STREET CUT PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT:
OVER 5 YEAR OLD PAVEMENT

- B. Comply with requirements of Paragraph 6.08A., OPEN CUT CONSTRUCTION IN STREET PAVEMENT, for all open-cut construction including excavation for auger or directional drilling insertion pits.
 - 1. Saw cut existing pavements along lines parallel to and perpendicular to traveled way center lines unless otherwise approved by the City Engineer.
 - 2. For concrete pavements, conform to requirements of Paragraphs 10.04, K., 5., 10., and 11.
- C. Prepare plan sheets for all excavations that identify and locate all existing underground facilities. These plan sheets shall be in the form of specific drawings or verification statements that the facilities have been identified, located and marked by the following entities:
 - Texas Underground Facility Notification Corporation
 - City of Houston's Public Utilities (water, sewer)

City of Houston's Traffic Signal Section (traffic signal)

City Engineers may require plan and profile drawings if necessitated due to the complexity of the excavation or previous non-compliance with facility location procedures.

- D. Plan view sheets shall show, at a minimum, the following information for the project area:
 - 1. Topographical features.
 - 2. Existing public and private utilities.
 - 3. Significant landscaping or other structures which might impact construction or construction related activities.
 - 4. Location and dimensions of proposed surface cuts.
 - 5. Location and depth of existing and proposed mains, cables, conduits, switches, and related equipment and facilities.
 - 6. Use baseline offsets from property lines, centerline of the public way, or curb lines; or a coordinate system acceptable to the City.
- E. Final drawings shall include a list City of Houston Standard Specifications and related standard details for excavation, bedding, backfilling and pavement repair and resurfacing.

1.05 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. For projects that include plans and profile sheets as required by the City Engineer, final design drawings will comply with the rules Established by the Texas State Board of Professional Engineers.